

# SC AHEC

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## Adoption - Understanding the Process

Kay Lambert, CE Coordinator, Pee Dee AHEC

The history of adoption illustrates that a great deal of progress has been made to reach today's standards. In the Colonial years of the United States, adoption was treated as a transfer of property and was mostly informal rather than legal.

Adoption became a legal process in the mid-nineteenth century with Massachusetts being the first state to enact legislation regarding adoption. In the mid-nineteenth century, a train took approximately 150,000 orphans from the urban Northeastern United States to the Midwest and West. These children on the "Orphan Trains" were "put up for adoption" by being placed on railroad platforms for inspection to be viewed and chosen. Today, the process of adoption is legal and focuses on the well-being of a child and is more sensitive to all involved.

It is estimated that 21 million, or 7% of the American population is adopted. According to 2004 statistics from the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse:

- 127,000 adoptions are completed each year in the United States
- 39% are publicly funded child welfare adoptions
- 46% are private, independent, kinship and tribal adoptions
- 15% are inter-country

Pam Frye and Leigh Ann Lawrence, educators from the University of Tennessee

at Maryville, presented a training program for the Pee Dee area on January 20 at the McLeod Medical Plaza Auditorium in Florence. The workshop was designed to educate health care professionals who

may be involved in infant adoptions in their respective workplaces. Funding for this curriculum comes from the US Department of Health and Human Services and Children's Bureau through the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program.

The training is based on the belief that in the situation of an unplanned pregnancy, women should be provided equal information and counseling regarding all options in a non-directive, non-coercive manner in order to make an informed decision. Included in the training were these primary areas:

- Overview for options for counseling
- Adoption practice, history, the relationship continuum, the triad, and adoption values
- Laws and procedures focusing on the state and federal laws regulating adoption including the rights of birth parents and adoptive parents
- Social, cultural and personal influences of adoption
- Elements of effective counseling
- Resource and community referrals for adoption

Interactive exercises were used that

*Continued on Page 2*



*Pam Fyre and Leigh Ann Lawrence  
Lead the Adoption Workshop*

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promoted skills development for potential scenarios in an adoption process. Exercises such as attitude awareness activities that promoted awareness of personal biases, prejudices, and negative attitudes and how they impact the provision of adoption information were presented. Special emphasis was placed on communication that is language sensitive. Participants also examined the experiences of parents, adoptive parents, and/or adoptees who are now adults while reviewing adoption laws and procedures specific to South Carolina. For example:

**Who initiates the adoption process?**

*"As a practical matter, children available for adoption are very scarce. Thus, there are many adoption agencies, attorneys, doctors, and adoption facilitators and childless couples actively looking for children to place for adoption. A pregnant woman willing to discuss adoptions will find herself with no shortage of offers."*

**Under what circumstances can an adopted child communicate with the birth parents?**

*"With the permission of the birth parents and*

*adoptive parents if the child is a minor. Court records are sealed and will generally not be opened."*

Health care providers attending this workshop included nurses, social workers, adoption specialists, and others. Participants received take home information and an interactive computer based training program for Cues.

Wayne Clardy, a social worker from Pee Dee Mental Health, Florence, commented:

*"I learned that it is always good to choose adoption in certain instances because some women can't take care of their child. When you make that choice, follow your heart."*

Bessie L Sanders-Gordon, a social worker from Sumter School District 7, commented:

*"The training was very good. It will be useful when working with families and providing training to my staff and the community."*

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## **South Carolina Initiates New Rural Dentist Program**

In July of 2005, the Rural Dentist Program was established by the South Carolina Legislature. The funds for this program are appropriated to the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and are administered by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium.

The program will assist in the repayment for educational loans of dentists who practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or serve as full-time faculty at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine. The expectation is that during their commitment period these dentists will establish viable practices or academic careers at the College of Dental Medicine, become involved in

their respective communities and remain after the funding period is over. Priority for this program will be given to those demonstrating need and expressing honest intent to remain in the underserved area or in an area of critical need at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine.

A Board has been created to manage and allocate these funds to insure the placement of licensed dentists in rural areas of South Carolina and on the faculty of the College of Dental Medicine at MUSC. The Board is composed of: The Dean, or his designee, of the MUSC College of Dental Medicine; three members from the South Carolina Dental Education Foundation Board who represent rural areas; and the

President of the South Carolina Dental Association. The Director of South Carolina DHEC's Office of Primary Care; the Director, or his designee, of the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Executive Director of the South Carolina Dental Association serve as ex-officio members without vote.

The Rural Dentist Board will meet in March to review applications and select recipients for the 2005 fiscal year. Donald Tyner and Becky Seignior are working with the Board to develop and administer this program. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Seignior at [seignior@musc.edu](mailto:seignior@musc.edu) or 834-792-4439.

## Interprofessional Day Encourages Interaction

Cindy Abole, Special from the MUSC Catalyst

*This article was originally published in the January 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Catalyst and is reprinted with permission.*

On January 20, approximately 630 MUSC students participated in a mandatory, half-day training experience. It was part of the campus' introduction to exploring the values of an interdisciplinary team approach to health care.



*College of Medicine faculty facilitator Dr. Amy Blue meets with her student group as part of Interprofessional Day's breakout sessions January 20.*

This type of interprofessional education and training is the first of its kind offered to first-year students. It is among several new educational initiatives created to enhance student learning and outcomes.

Students reported and assembled at multiple locations around MUSC's campus. Participants picked up their program packet, which outlined the agenda and viewed a 20-minute, campus-produced video. The video followed a fictional patient's journey from diagnosis to treatment and the contributions of multiple health care providers involved in that patient's care.

Following the video, students were divided into sub-groups for breakout sessions in multiple activity sites. Groups, led by faculty and student facilitators, shared information and discussed issues involving the team approach to health care. The event concluded with a post-test and evaluation.

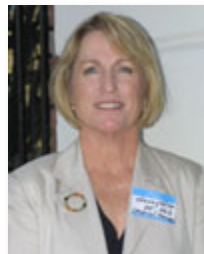
The effort was the result of a campuswide collaboration between an multidisciplinary planning group composed of faculty and students and approved by university administration and leadership from each of the six colleges.



**As an interprofessional day participant, how does this enhance learning?**

*Michael Snyder, student participant, College of Dental Medicine*

"I think this training will be helpful to all of us down the line. It's important that we learn how to value the contributions of other health professionals. As future practitioners, it will be especially important as we begin to refer out our patients to other specialists."



*Dr. Holly Wise, faculty facilitator, College of Health Professions—Physical Therapy Program*

"It provided a necessary, foundational appreciation of other health professionals. It was a good beginning to meeting people and

making new friends. It's my hope that this experience will improve health care by preparing practitioners to be more effective and efficient in all areas of practice. Hopefully, this knowledge will contribute to improving health care in all communities."



*Christine Reyes, student facilitator, College of Health Professions—Occupational Therapy*

"This provided an excellent showcase to a team concept that all health care students should be able to participate and enjoy. I hope that it becomes part of something

that will continue to be positive and ongoing. Organizers would like to see it extend to additional focus groups and other activities supported by students."



*Leslie Robinson, student facilitator, College of Pharmacy*

"This training was a great start and good beginning for students as they learn and understand the roles of other professionals. It was an effective and beneficial building block to understanding interdisciplinary teams."



## Lowcountry AHEC Holds 2006 SCRIPT Retreat

Mary Cabaniss & Diane Kennedy, Lowcountry AHEC

Lowcountry AHEC held its annual SCRIPT Leadership Retreat on January 13 and 14 in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Fifty-three participants traveled from around the state to take part and included SCRIPT preceptors, community liaisons, AHEC board members, SCRIPT team members, and faculty from Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, Winthrop University, the University of South Carolina, and South Carolina State University. The retreat was facilitated by Amy Brock-Martin, DrPH. Dr. Martin is the Deputy Director and Assistant Professor of the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Department of Health Policy and Management, Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina.

The South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT) is a statewide South Carolina AHEC program. It is sponsored by Lowcountry AHEC, in collaboration with Mid-Carolina, Pee Dee, and Upstate AHECs. The program is funded by the U.S. Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration (Grant #D36HP16004) and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For 13 years the SCRIPT program has sought to develop culturally sensitive health professionals who can work within interdisciplinary teams to deliver care in rural areas.

Each year more than 80 health professions students from 13 disciplines and six South Carolina universities participate in the course via five summer sessions across South Carolina. Each January a retreat is held to bring collaborators together to learn more about SCRIPT and learn skills to take back to their region.

The 2006 Retreat began with its traditional Friday evening "Get Together". Participants and their guests enjoyed refreshments and time to reconnect and meet new SCRIPT partners. Following this reception, Dr. Brock-Martin opened the retreat with an ice-breaker to prepare the group for Saturday's activities.



Saturday opened with a session for new SCRIPT retreat participants. This first session was designed to answer the question, "What is SCRIPT?" In any given year, retreat participants are made up of new and "repeat retreaters". This year over half of the participants had never been to a SCRIPT retreat. During this session the SCRIPT team communicated what the program is, its history, and why it is such a success.

Other retreat activities included a session on *SCRIPT Roles*. Small role specific group breakouts of faculty, board members, community liaisons, health professions student coordinators, and preceptors reviewed last year's retreat work on the roles of these groups. Following this, participants broke out into regional groups and discussed obstacles and solutions to improvement of SCRIPT.

Dr. Brock-Martin and Diane Kennedy discussed sustainability of the SCRIPT program. The group participated in regional breakouts with the purpose of brainstorming ideas. The participants were informed of the 2006 federal budget elimination of Quentin Burdick funding and its ramifications in SCRIPT 2007. Many ideas were

shared and several participants volunteered to find ways to keep SCRIPT funded in 2007 and beyond.

In the afternoon, the participants watched the SCETV film, *Corridor of Shame*. The film tells the story of the disparity between rural and urban South Carolina schools. Dr. Brock-Martin led the participants through a discussion of health disparities in rural South Carolina using the film. Participants broke into small regional groups and brainstormed ways to eliminate health disparities. Overall, this year's retreat was a great success.



*Small Group Discussions at the Retreat Will Help Make 2006 SCRIPT Programs Successful*



## Addressing Prescription Drug Use Among Teens

Tina Fulton, Upstate AHEC

Fourth year medical student Shahid Javery, recently conducted a study concerning the abuse of prescription drugs among high school students. Studies show that while illegal drug use among teens is declining, prescription drug use is on the rise. The ease of availability of these drugs to teens and the misconception that these drugs are "okay" because a doctor prescribes them contribute to this increase. The aim of the project was to give students a better understanding of the dangers of prescription drug use and the effects they have on the body. Three categories of drugs were discussed: painkillers, anti-anxiety medications, and steroids.

Shahid, a student at the Medical University of South Carolina and participant in the Upstate

AHEC's Health Professions Student Program, conducted the project in September, 2005 at Boiling Springs High School in Spartanburg, SC. He talked with several classes and entertained questions from the students. Over 200 students were given a pre and post quiz to measure the effectiveness of the presentation. Shahid felt that the students were more receptive to his approach because he is close to them in age and used information that is relevant to today's students. He also felt that the students were less threatened by him than the police officers or recovering addicts who usually lecture on these types of topics. Shahid also used himself as an example, having recently been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), by explaining how his medication calms his thought processes, but would act as a stimulant drug in someone without this disease.



*Shahid Javery Speaks Candidly with Students at Boiling Springs High School*

Dr. Thomas and Dr. Webb of Roebuck Family Practice were instrumental in helping with this project. Several teachers at Boiling Springs have decided to add this project as a topic to future advance placement classes. Shahid hopes that students may be able to expand on the information he was able to find. His presentation is posted at [www.upstateahec.org](http://www.upstateahec.org).

## Mid-Carolina AHEC Hosts First Annual Open House for Regional Constituents

Debbi Lewis, CE Coordinator,  
Mid-Carolina AHEC

Mid-Carolina AHEC welcomed approximately 75 guests to their First Annual Open House on December 8, 2005. The guest list included Consortium Members, Legislators, Mid-Carolina AHEC Board of Directors, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Instructors and even a few patients. The guests were treated to a variety of "homemade" goodies provided by the very talented Mid-Carolina AHEC staff, a tour of the office and a unique opportunity to meet the entire



Mid-Carolina AHEC staff all at one location. It was a fun, festive time.

The Mid-Carolina AHEC staff is looking forward to a very prosperous and productive New Year in 2006. This year they are pleased to announce:

- Individual Memberships
- Flexible Consortium Program Planning Options
- New and Improved Website
- Pharmacy Technician Program through the SDDP Core Service
- Multi-state Event Program Planning
- Re-designed Student Development & Diversity Program
- Coalition Building to Support and Leverage Resources for Student Services
- Increased Regional Legislative Awareness
- Plus more!

For more information, contact Mid-Carolina AHEC at 803-286-4121 or visit [www.midcarolinaahec.org](http://www.midcarolinaahec.org).

## LOWCOUNTRY HEALTHY ♥ COALITION



**Hampton County EMS**

Hampton County is one of four counties in the state receiving funds from the Cardiovascular Division of DHEC in Columbia to prevent and reduce heart disease and stroke. The initiative is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this in mind, Betsy Moody, South Carolina DHEC – Region 8, Diane Kennedy and Emily Warren, Lowcountry AHEC, Susanne Peeples, Hampton County EMS, Carrie Whipper with the Palmetto Project's Heart



& Soul Program, and the American Heart Association developed plans to combine resources to improve cardiovascular health in Hampton County. These groups of agencies have been collaborating since September 2003 and have established the Lowcountry Healthy Heart Coalition.

Presently, the Coalition's primary focus is to increase awareness of signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke, expand cardiovascular related screenings, and teach CPR in the faith community. On February 24, approximately 20 members and pastors from about 10 Hampton County AME, Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Holiness, and Pentecostal churches met with the Coalition's local and state agency personnel to learn about recent cardiovascular health prevention initiatives in Hampton County and upcoming activities. All of the faith community representatives expressed interest in actively participating in the Coalition. Several participants received assistance for upcoming health ministry activities. The meeting was hosted by Reverend John A. Porter and Huspah Baptist Church.

Mrs. Carrie Whipper from the Heart and Soul Program facilitated group discussion on future plans and proposed activities. Lowcountry Healthy Heart Coalition will be participating in National Heart Month during February 2006. Participants received instructions for implementing the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign. They received red dress pins and cardiovascular educational materials to distribute to their congregations.

For more information about the Lowcountry Healthy Heart Coalition, contact Lowcountry AHEC at 803-943-5052 or [www.lcahec.net](http://www.lcahec.net).



**Become a LINK in the Chain of Survival**



## Diversity Coalition Update

The activities of the regional South Carolina Diversity Coalitions are underway and each of the four Coalitions are defining objectives designed to increase the number of students who enter the state's health professions pipeline.

As the work of the Coalitions has progressed, they have become focused on the development of initiatives to address barriers that have been identified in previous meetings. One common barrier is the lack of sufficient information and education about health careers.

Emma McGraw Myers of EM Consultants is a community organizer assisting in the development of the four Coalitions. Ms. Myers is working with the Coalitions to include as many regional partners as possible. The current Coalition membership is very diverse in its organizational representation and the work being done by its members reaches practically every county in South Carolina.

South Carolina AHEC commends the Coalitions in the selection of co-chairs, and recognizes the

following individuals who have volunteered to be co-chairs of their regional Coalitions:

### Lowcountry Region

Toni Rehkop, Beaufort  
David Smalls, Walterboro-Colleton

### Mid-Carolina Region

Michael Brown, Columbia  
Diane Milton, Richland

### Pee Dee Region

Barbara Brown, Darlington  
Howard Wilkes, Florence

### Upstate Region

Angela Davis, Clemson  
Gloria Graves, Spartanburg

Additional information may be obtained by contacting your regional AHEC center or the Program Office at 843-792-4431.



## Our Health: The Next Generation

The South Carolina AHEC Student Development & Diversity Program joined forces with the Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, Project Export, Hands on Health - South Carolina, the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the Stroke Belt Elimination Initiative to sponsor the South Carolina Educational Television (SC ETV) production of **Our Health: The Next Generation**.

The **Our Health Series** are made-for-television dialogues examining the impact of various issues and conditions on the health and wellness of South Carolina's residents. Conceived and produced for a statewide television audience, these programs feature a skilled moderator, diverse panelists with ties and interests in our state, and an active and informed studio audience. The goal of these programs is to deliver these issues to South

Carolinians in a way that encourages positive actions.

### The Next Generation

segment premiered on February 17

and focused on the issues affecting the health and lifestyles of teens and young adults. Two members of the South Carolina AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals were among the panelists featured: Kathryn Myers, Mid-Carolina AHEC Association member and a senior at A.C. Johnson High School in Columbia; and Ashley Fulton, Lowcountry AHEC Association member and a freshman at USC. Several participants of the Mid-Carolina AHEC Association, under the coordination of Angel Clark, participated as audience members.





# Health Professional Career Profile

## NURSE ANESTHETIST

Nurse anesthetists practice in a variety of settings in the private and public sector and in the U.S. military including traditional hospital operating rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, pain clinics and doctors' offices. They practice on a solo basis, in groups and collaboratively. Some nurse anesthetists have independent contracting arrangements with physicians or hospitals.

### Educational Preparation

Students interested in becoming nurse anesthetists should take college preparatory course work in high school. The courses are as follows: three courses in math including Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry or a higher level math course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite; three science courses including one biological science, one physical science and one lab course; four English courses; two social studies courses including one in U.S. history; and two years of foreign language. Nurse anesthetists are required to have a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing or another appropriate baccalaureate degree from an approved nursing program. A license as a registered nurse is also required and

a minimum of one year of acute care nursing experience. Twenty-four to 36 months of graduate course work is required including both classroom and clinical experience.

### Licensure, Certification, and Registration

A nurse attends an accredited nurse anesthesia education program to receive an extensive education in anesthesia. Upon graduation, the nurse must pass a national certification exam to become a certified nurse anesthetist.

### Educational Programs

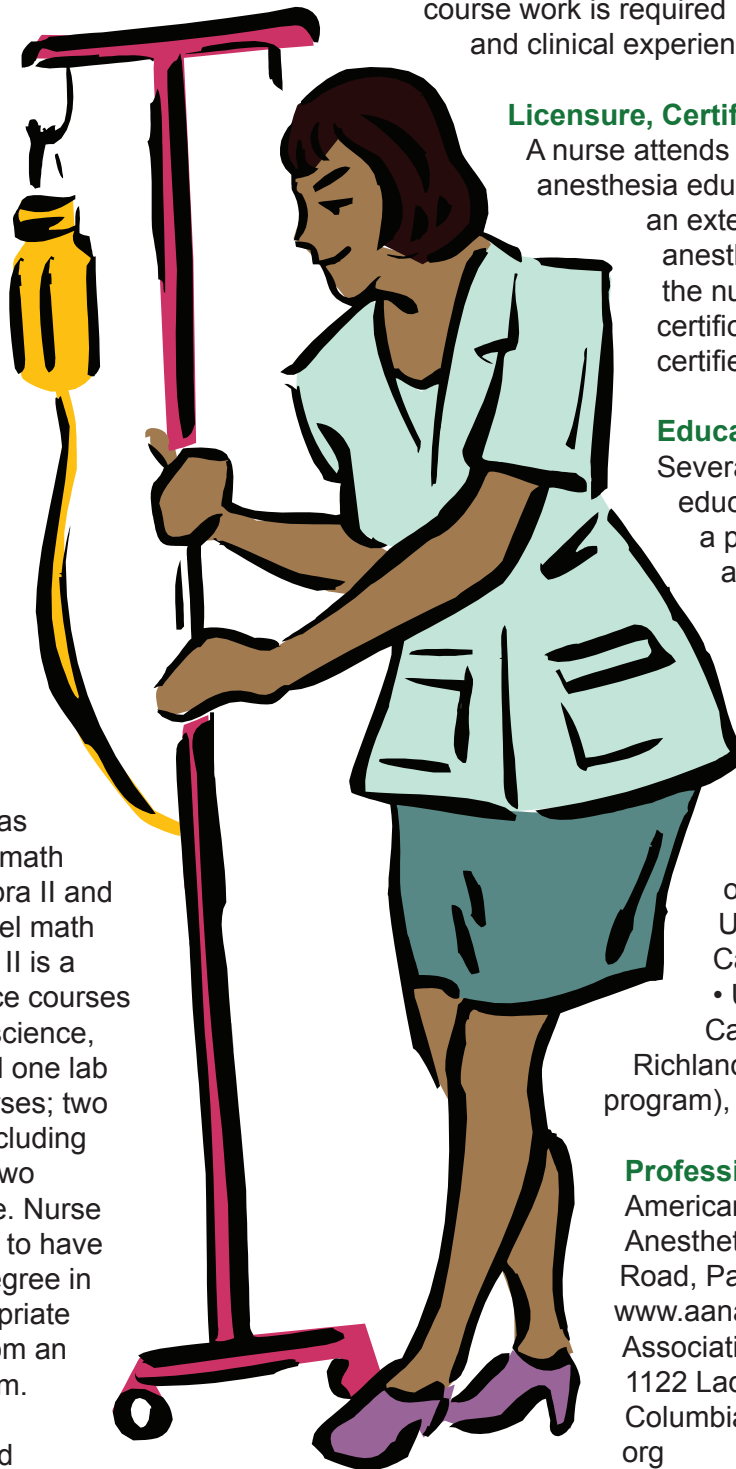
Several nurse anesthesia education programs grant a professional certificate and/or a bachelor's degree while a majority confer a master's degree in nursing, allied health or biological and clinical sciences. Nurse anesthesia educational programs in South Carolina are offered by:

- Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston
- University of South Carolina & Palmetto

Richland Memorial Hospital (joint program), Columbia

### Professional Organizations

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 222 South Prospect Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001, [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com) • South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 1122 Lady Street, Suite 914, Columbia, SC 29201, [www.sccrna.org](http://www.sccrna.org)



## Nurse Anesthetist's Work Is Never Dull

Lori Brooks generally begins her day at 7:00 AM as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at Spartanburg Regional Hospital. There she checks the board for her assignments and then changes into her scrubs and heads off to begin prepping her first patient.

As a child, Lori watched her mother prepare for a career as a Physician Assistant. She was impressed by the white lab jacket that her mother wore. This early exposure spurred Lori's interest in nursing. She joined the AHEC-sponsored career exploration program during her sophomore year at Southside High School in Greenville. Although she had decided to pursue a career in nursing by that point, Lori recalls being introduced to a wide array of health professions and "being allowed to see positive role models in fields that I didn't know existed." She recalls, "All of the extra curricular experiences were very positive, including developing professional skills that are tools for life." Having opportunities to shadow and complete internships through AHEC helped to solidify her interest in nursing.

When Lori entered Clemson University in 1991, her plan was to eventually become a nurse administrator with the completion of requirements for both a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing and a Master's of Business Administration. While there, a mentor introduced her to

the career of nurse anesthesia, which also requires the completion of a Master's degree and would allow her to continue using the skills and techniques of nursing. This prospect held greater appeal for Lori than becoming an administrator which would remove her from patient care. With that in mind, she received a degree in nursing from Clemson University and her nurse anesthesia training from the USC School of Medicine/Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital. "AHEC provided scholarship support during that time that really helped with my educational expenses," Lori remembers.

***"It's a waste of time to go to school, pay a lot of money for tuition and realize afterwards that you have prepared for a profession that is not for you. Volunteering is free."***

"The variety of patient care," is what she enjoys most about her job. "Sometimes I work in labor and delivery, and other times I work with trauma or pediatric patients. This allows me to work with different types of patients in different settings and I don't get bored doing the same thing every day", Lori states. "I have to constantly brainstorm because the science of anesthesia does not allow for a cookbook approach. People respond differently to different techniques, so I often have to try different approaches."

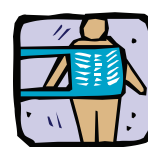
When asked to compare being a Nurse Anesthetist to being an

Anesthesiologist, Lori points out that her field allows time for her to have a life outside of her job. She has the option to be on call, where it is required of doctors, and she is able to flex her schedule. As a Nurse Anesthetist, she is with her patients from the time they are sedated until they come out of sedation, while a doctor touches base prior to moving to the next patient. "This really gives me a sense of satisfaction and allows me to get feedback from my patients." Lori notes it takes only six and a half years of education beyond high school to be a Nurse Anesthetist, where it takes 10 years for an anesthesiologist to complete his/her education.

Lori recommends students who are currently exploring health professions to look for opportunities to job shadow and explore the possibilities. She is a strong proponent of volunteerism. "Remember that it's not about the money, but the exposure", she advises. "It's a waste of time to go to school, pay a lot of money for tuition and realize afterwards that you have prepared for a profession that is not for you. Volunteering is free."

Her final words of wisdom are, "don't get discouraged when things are hard. If it were easy, everyone would do it. To want something is to work for it."

*Lori Saxon, CRNA, MS invites students who would like to learn more about the field of Nurse Anesthesia to email her at [loricrna@aol.com](mailto:loricrna@aol.com).*



## NeuroBlast!

Welcome to NeuroBlast!, an activity designed to improve the reader's knowledge of health careers. This edition of NeuroBlast! will assist you in testing your knowledge about terminology associated with nurse anesthetists. Test your knowledge and challenge your friends. Answers can be found at [WWW.SCAHEC.NET](http://WWW.SCAHEC.NET).

### WORD SCRAMBLE

**Directions:** Rearrange the letters to create the word associated with the clue provided. Use the circled letters to spell the word associated with the final clue.

1. Instrument used to deliver medications directly into the blood stream or to draw blood.	<div> <div>○□□□□□□</div> <div>G R N Y E S I</div> </div>
2. Instrument which allow the health practitioner to hear heart rhythms and breathing patterns.	<div> <div>□○□□□□□□○</div> <div>T T O S S P O E C H</div> </div>
3. The health professional who works in conjunction with the nurse anesthetist.	<div> <div>□□□□□□○□</div> <div>N A I H Y P S C I</div> </div>
4. The type of program a health professions student is required to complete for licensure and prior to certification.	<div> <div>□□□□□○□□□□</div> <div>A R T C D C E I E D</div> </div>
5. The level of degree conferred by the Nurse Anesthesia Programs offered in the state of South Carolina.	<div> <div>□□□□○□□</div> <div>S M T S E A R</div> </div>
<b>FINAL CLUE:</b> To medically sleep a patient.	<div> <div>□□□□□□</div> </div>





## Applications Now Being Accepted for the 2006 Future Health Professionals Academy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The 2006 South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professionals Academy will be held June 5 – 16, 2006. Formerly known as the SC AHEC/REACH 2010 Pre-Nursing Academy, the name was changed to reflect the expansion of the Academy to include a pre-dental track.

The MUSC College of Dental Medicine has joined the partnership between the South Carolina AHEC and the Medical University of South Carolina's College of Nursing, Project EXPORT and REACH 2010 to create the dual track program.

"I think it is going to be an awesome collaboration between the College of Dental Medicine and the South Carolina AHEC, which will ultimately lead to an increase in the number of underrepresented health practitioners," states Gwendolyn Brown, DMD, Academy faculty member and Director of Diversity, MUSC College of Dental Medicine.

Each track is designed by faculty of the respective MUSC colleges to increase the acceptance, retention and graduation rates of under-represented minority and disadvantaged students to nursing and dental training programs within South Carolina. The curriculum consists of didactic and clinical sessions to assist in the reinforcement of academic skills and to prep Academy fellows for the rigors associated with the health training curriculums. In addition to special sessions being held in the clinical and gross anatomy labs, fellows will be required to research, develop and facilitate a poster presentation to university faculty and administration. Admissions requirements for the state's dental and nursing programs and financial aid resource information will be provided.

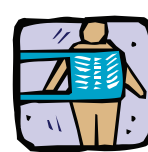
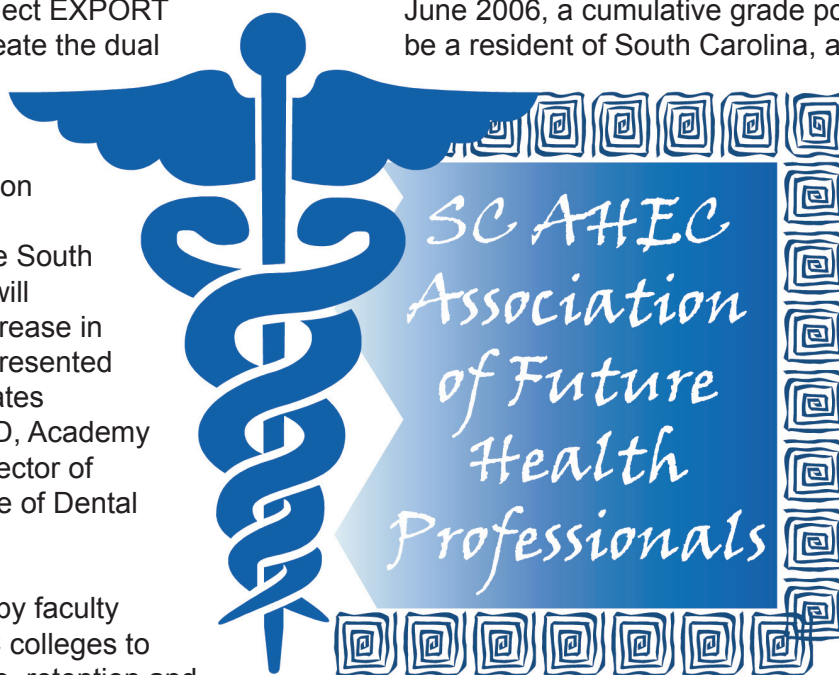
Academy pre-nursing faculty member and MUSC Hollings Cancer Center Breast Health Patient Navigation Program Manager, Debbie Bryant, MSN, is "very excited about being a part of the third year of providing support to the success of nursing students through the Academy. The addition of the dental track is an excellent benefit to the overall concept."

Academy fellows are accepted through a competitive application process. Eligibility requirements include the receipt of a high school diploma or GED prior to June 2006, a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, be a resident of South Carolina, and be currently

enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an accredited college or university for the Fall of 2006 with a sincere interest in pursuing or exploring professions of nursing or dental medicine. Pre-dental applicants are also required to have earned 12 semester hours of

undergraduate credit. A small stipend is available with successful completion of the Academy.

Applications for the South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professionals Academy are available by clicking on the **Student Development & Diversity** link on the South Carolina AHEC website at [www.scahec.net](http://www.scahec.net) or by contacting your regional SDDP Coordinator. For additional information contact Angelica Williams in the South Carolina AHEC Program Office at 843-792-4432.



## Family Physician Simpson Wears Multiple Hats



Dr. William Simpson's hat rack is full these days. As a family physician, agromedicine expert and geriatric champion, his work is blended into programs and departments across the state. For the South Carolina AHEC Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network, Dr. Simpson is an essential component in the preparation of health care professionals to respond to a natural or man-made event.

Dr. Simpson joined the Department of Family Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina in 1977 as Director of Undergraduate Education. Since serving in that capacity he has held nearly every senior position in the department including a two year term as acting Chairman. He is currently serving as the Director of Public Health and Public Service Activities for the Department of Family Medicine and is the Director of the South Carolina Agromedicine Program and Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program.

Prior to coming back to MUSC in 1977 (he received his M.D. degree and his residency training in family medicine here), he served two years of active duty in the US Army at the first concentration of family medicine residency trained physicians in the military at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Remaining in the Army Reserve until his retirement as a Colonel in 2004, he taught in military family medicine residencies in California, Hawaii, North Carolina and Georgia, in addition to being called to active duty during Operation Desert Storm. During his long military career, he had extensive training in chemical, biological and radiological warfare. Dr. Simpson received a mid-career fellowship to study geriatrics at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution in Baltimore. Since completion of the fellowship he has directed training in geriatrics for the MUSC Department of Family Medicine.

His work as Associate Director of the Agromedicine program for more than 10 years and Director for the past two years has given him the opportunity to develop skills in the many areas at the intersection of agriculture and medicine. These areas include agroterrorism, animal and food-related illness, and avian influenza.

His experiences in the military, geriatrics and agromedicine have prepared him well for his activities with the Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network. During the initial years of the grant, Dr. Simpson led the preparation of the module on agroterrorism and assisted with the development of continuing education activities in the area of bioterrorism for health professionals. During the present grant cycle he has developed a module on avian influenza and is working with several core team members on training materials in disaster preparedness and response for nursing home/assisted living staff.

The last hat you might see him donning is a bicycle helmet as he peddles off to see another patient and enlighten another audience.



### Test your Avian Flu Knowledge:

Is Avian Flu something new this year?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Does Avian Flu have the ability to be transmitted from human to human?

- A. Yes
- B. No

What things need to happen to cause a pandemic avian flu outbreak?

- A. Development of Person to Person Transmission
- B. Arrival of H5N1 Virus in the US
- C. Inadequate Stocks of Influenza Vaccine
- D. All the Above

What aspect of H5N1 is NOT troublesome at this time?


- A. Highly Pathogenic in Humans
- B. Very High Death Rate
- C. Genetically Similar to Pandemic Flu Virus of 1918
- D. Highly Transmissible from Human to Human

## Disaster Preparedness & Response Training Network Launches Website

What's happening in the world of disaster preparedness? Who are the members of the Network and what innovative programs are underway? For up-to-date information, check out the new Disaster Preparedness & Response Training Network Website at:

**[WWW.SCAHEC.NET/PREPARES](http://WWW.SCAHEC.NET/PREPARES)**

This site is your gateway to online courses, upcoming events calendars, national, state and local resources and Network news. Check back often for Network updates and learn how you can be prepared in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.



**Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network**  
South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium

**Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network (DPRT)**  
**A Unique Opportunity to Prepare for the Unthinkable**

This project, a collaboration of many partners in South Carolina, is addressing the training needs of practicing health care professionals for bioterrorism and public health emergency event recognition and response. Originally funded in 2003, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network was refunded in 2005 through a \$3.8 million, three-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Emergency preparedness and response issues include all forms of terrorism, natural disasters and tragic accidents. The goal of this program is to equip the health care workforce with the knowledge, skills, abilities and core competencies to recognize indications of a terrorist event; meet the acute care needs of patients, including pediatric and other vulnerable populations; participate in a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to emergencies; and rapidly and effectively alert the public health system if such an event was to occur.

Activities include providing regional and statewide training programs, serving vulnerable populations including children and the elderly, and addressing high risk target areas including rural communities, ports/coastal areas, and nuclear/chemical facilities. Also included is the establishment of a Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network Resource Center.

### Now Available:

- **New!! On-line Course: ARE YOU READY?** (CME credit available)
- On-line [Incident Command Systems for Health Care](#) from Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response
- Register for [CDC Clinician Terrorism and Emergency Response Updates and Training Opportunities](#)
- [Information about ESAR-VHP Programs.](#)  
These systems will facilitate the creation of volunteer health professional databases for use in emergency response situations. Each system will provide for:
  - (1) the registration of health volunteers,
  - (2) the designation of resource types, and
  - (3) the emergency verification of the identity, credentials, and qualifications of volunteers.



## Upstate AHEC: Announcing New & Returning Staff



### **Tina Fulton Program Assistant**

Tina Fulton, who previously worked for Upstate AHEC as the program assistant for continuing education, has returned to the team after

pursuing other career options. Tina has a Bachelors degree from Furman University in Business Administration. Her professional experiences include customer service, banking, and information technology. Tina brings creative and technical expertise to the role of marketing coordinator for the Center as well as program assistant to the Health Professions Student Program and the Student Development and Diversity Program.



### **Susan Kyzer, MS, RN Health Professions Student Coordinator**

Susan is a graduate of the University of South Carolina in Columbia,

and received her Masters of Science in Family Health Nursing from Clemson University. Her career in nursing has included clinical instruction, labor/delivery, medical/surgical nursing, pediatric orthopedic nursing, nursing management, and health care consulting.

In 2001, Susan was the first Health Professions Student Coordinator for Upstate AHEC. During her tenure, Susan laid a strong foundation upon which the Center has continued to build its community-based program of supportive preceptors and accessible student housing. Her dedication, enthusiasm, caring, and can-do attitude were

instrumental in creating the site coordinator model that exists today. Susan retired in 2004 but graciously returned to share her expertise with AHEC when Dianne Jacobs, one of Upstate's two HPS Coordinators moved into her current position as Continuing Education Consultant.



### **Lee Gossett Program and Grant Coordinator**

Lee joined the Upstate AHEC team on January 2, 2006, in the newly created role of Program and Grant Coordinator

and is already busy working on both regional and statewide projects. She comes to us with remarkable qualifications for this position. Most recently, Lee worked as an Education Instructor with Charlotte AHEC, responsible for planning, developing, and delivering mid-management curriculum for health care professionals in transition from staff to leadership positions. She also created and presented a basic medical terminology course for students participating in Charlotte AHEC's version of South Carolina AHEC's SDDP initiative.

Earlier in her career, Lee served as an Employee and Management Development Specialist with the Carolinas HealthCare System, a Marketing-Business Industry Liaison with the Catawba Regional Workforce Investment System in Rock Hill, SC, and a Training Specialist with Tyco Electronics. Lee has facilitated strategic planning, solicited requests for proposals, and coordinated fundraising, grants and foundation activities.

She received a Bachelors of Science in Human Services degree from Gardner-Webb University and has Certificates from Winthrop, UNC, and the Juran Institute in Organization Development, Quality Improvement, and Human Resource Management. Lee is also a Center for Creative Leadership scholarship recipient and a graduate of the Center's Leadership Development Training Program.

## Lowcountry AHEC Staffing Changes

Lowcountry AHEC is pleased to announce three staff promotions. Ann Graef was recently promoted to be the Lowcountry AHEC American Heart Association Training Center Coordinator. Ann has been with LC AHEC for over 25 years and received the South Carolina AHEC Ambassador Award in 2005. She is also the Disaster Preparedness and Response Network's program assistant.

In January, 2006 Mary Fennell was promoted to Continuing Education Coordinator. She has been with Lowcountry AHEC for five years. For the past four years, Mary has served as the Continuing Education Program Assistant. Her knowledge of the continuing education department is very valuable as she transitions to her new coordinator role.

Also in January, Tonya Faircloth was promoted to Continuing Education Program Assistant. Tonya has worked for Lowcountry AHEC for over four years. During that time she has been an administrative assistant, receptionist, and all around go-to person. Tonya's experience working in all core service areas will be a great asset in her new role.



*Ann Graef, Mary Fennell & Tonya Faircloth Excel at Lowcountry AHEC*

## Steve Boulanger, South Carolina AHEC's Newest Addition

South Carolina AHEC would like to welcome its newest member, Steve Boulanger, to the Disaster Preparedness & Response Training (DPRT) Network team. Steve will be working with Beth Kennedy on various data management projects for the DPRT Network. Steve comes to us from California having recently relocated to the Lowcountry to be closer to family.

He has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Irvine and an extensive background in Access database design.



Before coming to South Carolina AHEC, Steve worked at Regents Point, a large retirement community in Irvine, CA. There he served as the administrative assistant to the executive director helping out in all facets of the operation.

"The most rewarding part of working at Regents," offers Steve "was getting to know the seniors and the often amazing lives they led before retiring." About his role with South Carolina AHEC, Steve says: "I feel pretty lucky to be working with such a great bunch of people. Everyone I've met seems very dedicated to making South Carolina a better place for everyone. I like working where people are focused on something more than just getting ahead."

Steve Boulanger can be contacted at 843-792-2845 or [boulang@musc.edu](mailto:boulang@musc.edu).

## Upcoming South Carolina AHEC Events

**March 20-21, 2006**

**South Carolina AHEC Annual Meeting,**  
Landmark Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC

**April 26, 2006**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop for Nurse Aide Training**  
Coordinators & Instructors, Columbia, SC

**April 28, 2006**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual South Carolina Magnet Conference:**  
**Exploring the Dimensions of Magnet,** Greenville, SC

Program and registration information is available at  
[www.scahec.net](http://www.scahec.net).



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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

The editorial staff of "SC AHEC Connects" welcomes the submission of articles, success stories, upcoming events and news for the Summer Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to Ragan DuBose-Morris at [duboser@musc.edu](mailto:duboser@musc.edu).

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS  
May 1, 2006!

*SOUTH CAROLINA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM*  
Excellence in Health Care Through Education